NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0068 JANUARY 29, 1976
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U.S. AND VIETNAM: RAPPROCHEMENT CONDITIONS

ANNCR:

NORTH VIETNAM EARLIER THIS WEEK INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO SETTLE POST-WAR PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES. VOA'S JOSEPH SULLIVAN HAS THE DETAILS IN THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

HANOI'S OFFER WAS SPELLED OUT BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PAPER, "NHAN DAN." AN ARTICLE MARKING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM SAID THAT NORTH VIETNAM WAS READY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES TO SETTLE PROBLEMS LEFT OVER FROM THE VIETNAM WAR. SUCH NEGOTIATIONS, "NHAN DAN" SAID, COULD INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE OF THE VIETNAM AGREEMENT. THAT ARTICLE REFERS TO THE QUESTION OF SEARCHING FOR THE AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION IN INDOCHINA AND THE LOCATION AND REPATRIATION OF THE REMAINS OF U.S. TROOPS. (OPT) LAST MONTH, THE REMAINS OF THREE AMERICAN AIRMEN SHOT DOWN OVER NORTH VIETNAM WERE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES....THIS AFTER TALKS BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF A SPECIAL U.S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. (END OPT)

WASHINGTON'S CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM HAVE BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED. PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAVE SAID THAT FUTURE POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT'S CONDUCT TOWARD THE UNITED STATES -- PARTICULARLY THE RETURN OF REMAINS OF AMERICANS KILLED IN VIETNAM OR INFORMATION ABOUT THEM AND OTHERS MISSING IN ACTION. THEY HAVE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO RECIPPROCATE

GESTURES OF GOODWILL.

THE U.S. POSITION HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES TOWARD VIETNAM. IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR, THE STATE DEPARTMENT GAVE ITS APPROVAL TO THE GRANTING OF EXPORT LICENSES FOR AID SHIPMENTS TO VIETNAM BY AN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS GROUP KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID AT THE TIME THAT THE FACILITATION OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO VIETNAM COULD BE LOOKED AT AS A GESTURE IN RESPONSE TO THE EARLIER RELEASE OF NINE AMERICANS IN HANOI. (OPT) HE SAID THE DECISION WAS IN KEEPING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S JUNE 18 SPEECH AT THE JAPAN SOCIETY. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SECRETARY SAID AMERICAN POLICIES TOWARD VIETNAM WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY VIETNAMESE CONDUCT TOWARD THEIR NEIGHBORS AND THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. (END OPT)

ALTHOUGH HANOI HAS INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE POST-WAR PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES, IT HAS ALSO SET PRE-CONDITIONS FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS. ONE OF WHICH IS THAT WASHINGTON FIRST COMPLY WITH VARIOUS TERMS SPELLED OUT IN THE VIETNAM CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING A PLEDGE OF AMERICAN RECONSTRUCTION AID TO VIETNAM. THE UNITED STATES POSITION IS THAT THE PARIS ACCORD BECAME IN A SENSE INOPERATIVE WITH THE MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF ITS MOST BASIC PROVISIONS BY THE COMMUNIST SIDE AND THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF SAIGON.

SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TALKS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT HANOI DID NOT MAKE AMERICAN RECONSTRUCTION AID A CONDITION TO ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED

STATES. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT SUPPORTED IN THE "NHAN DAN" ARTICLE OR OTHER COMMENT FROM HANOI ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

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